

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

MARCH 21, 1963

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN POLARIS ELEMENT

QUESTION: What is the current target date now set for Polaris force to be on station in Mediterranean? Where will berthing facilities for this force be established? Is it contemplated that this element will ultimately become part of the multilateral force?

In addition to the Mediterranean Polaris Element, is it contemplated that any ground-based weapons systems will be installed in areas from which the Jupiters are removed?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

1. The Polaris submarines will be on station in the Mediterranean this year.
2. We currently have adequate berthing facilities for Polaris submarines at Holy Loch and in the United States.
3. The submarines will be assigned to SACEUR and certainly could become part of the NATO Nuclear Force under paragraph 6 of the Nassau agreement.
4. We contemplate modernizing other weapons now in Italy. This will involve the eventual replacement of the Corporal missile with the Sergeant missile.